PATHS | Bridge to Career (B2C) in Human Services

Texas A&M University

Bridge to Career in Human Services is a postsecondary certificate program offered by the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University. It is supported by a grant from the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities. TCDD/ $225,000 and TAMU/CDD $80,476
The PATHS | B2C Program
in our students’ words
What is a Direct Support Professional (DSP)?

• A person who supports people with disabilities and older people to live in their communities.

• A Direct Support Professional sees their work as a career, not just a job.

• A Direct Support Professional actively uses person centered tools and practices when supporting others.

• A Direct Support Professional believes and practices equity in relationship with the people they support.
What is a Childcare Professional (CCP)?

• A person who supports children (0-5 years) in a childcare setting.
• A Childcare Professional sees their work as a career, not just a job.
• A Childcare Professional actively uses and demonstrates the six core childcare competencies when working with children.
• A Childcare Professional believes and practices equity in relationship with the people they support.
Project Background

*Purpose:* To provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) access to an inclusive postsecondary education program, which prepares them for employment in the health and human service field

*Location:* College Station, TX – Texas A&M University

*Partnerships:* Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCIL), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC; formerly DARS), Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, other local agencies, health care providers, and individuals with disabilities seeking direct support
B2C - Project Overview

Summer: 4 weeks
(Prerequisite for PATHS or Stand Alone)

- On-campus dorm living
  - 7 days/week

- Classroom instruction
  - 10 courses
  - 5 days/week

- Independent living skills training (community)

- College Prep

- Courses Required
  - Self-Determination
  - Professionalism
  - Study Skills
  - Technology
  - Budgeting
  - Healthy Choices/Cooking
  - Healthy Relationships and Personal Safety
  - Skills to Pay the Bills
  - Community Day
  - Volunteer Day

paths.tamu.edu
b2c.tamu.edu
# Sample Schedule – Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am-9:30am</td>
<td>Skills to Pay the Bills</td>
<td>Self-Determination</td>
<td>Skills to Pay the Bills</td>
<td>Self-Determination</td>
<td>Healthy Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45am-11:15am</td>
<td>Community Day</td>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Community Day</td>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15am-1:00pm</td>
<td>Community Day</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Community Day</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>Healthy Choices/Cooking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Study Skills</td>
<td>Volunteer Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Budgeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm-6:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner Break</td>
<td>Dinner Break</td>
<td>Dinner Break</td>
<td>Dinner Break</td>
<td>Dinner Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Reflections/RA Topic Meetings (split male/female)</td>
<td>Reflections/RA Topic Meetings (split male/female)</td>
<td>Reflections/RA Topic Meetings (split male/female)</td>
<td>Reflections/RA Topic Meetings (split male/female)</td>
<td>RA Social Meetings (split male/female)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Overview

Fall/Spring (mimics Texas A&M academic calendar)

- **Fall Semester (16 weeks)**
  - Academic Training
    - DSP/CCP Content
    - Professionalism
    - Field Based Experience Preparation
    - Communication Through Movement
    - Healthy Relationships and Personal Safety
  - Observation of career field
  - Volunteering in career field
  - Participating in community and campus activities
  - BVCIL events

- **Spring Semester (16 weeks)**
  - Field Based Experience placement (min 15 hours/week)
    - Volunteer practicum or paid internship
    - 135 total FBE hours required to graduate
  - Attend classes 1 day/week
    - DSP/CCP Content
    - Field Based Experience
    - Communication Through Movement
  - Participating in community and campus activities
  - BVCIL events
Sample Schedule

Fall
Guiding Principles

- PATHS | B2C is inclusive & recruits students from a wide range of experiences & cultural backgrounds.
  
  DSP: Reflects the NADSP Code of Ethics and is Nationally Accredited
  
  CCP: Courses are Accredited through Texas A&M Extension

- Supporting others as a DSP/CCP is a career.
- People with disabilities who choose a career as a DSP/CCP bring their own set of unique experiences and skills to the position
Supporting Components

Universal Design of Classroom
Texas A&M Student Mentors
Tutoring
Project Staff & Instructors
Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

Program Partners:
• TWC (formerly DARS)
• BVCIL (Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living)
• TAMU Student Health Promotion
• TAMU Career Center
• TAMU Library Services
• TAMU Student Health Services
• On & Off-campus Housing
Program Leadership Team

Dr. Cheryl Grenwelge
Program Director

Ruth Davenport, M.Ed.
Program Manager

Mary Whirley, M.Ed.
Program Assistant

Riley Biffle, B.A.
Program Assistant
Supporting Students: Mentor Roles

- Advisor
  - FBE
  - Post Graduation Goals

- Instructional Assistant
  - Content Class
  - Class Homework

- Color Group Mentor
  - Weekly Topics
  - Independent Living Goals
Major Accomplishments

- Total Graduation Number for the first 5 cohorts 2011-2016 (N=79)
  - Job at graduation = 84%
  - Job at 1 year = 88%
- Graduation rate = 75-80%
- Average Earning Wage at 1 year = $9.00/hr.
- Currently, 36 students enrolled for the 2016-2017 cohort
- Number of individuals impacted: exponential
Graduates by Cohort

PATHS Graduates by Cohort

- 2011-2012: 8
- 2012-2013: 9
- 2013-2014: 24
- 2014-2015: 17
- 2015-2016: 21

Postsecondary Access and Training for Human Services
Bridge to Career
Postsecondary Access and Training for Human Services
Bridge to Career

Acceptance Letter

Major Accomplishments

paths.tamu.edu
b2c.tamu.edu
College Life
College Life
Kaitlin Foster
Political Science, Freshman
Katy, TX

“I love being a PATHS mentor and getting to help my students through their education. I can see the development they are making, and I wish every person could have this opportunity. I want to run for public office some day, and experiencing this program will help me advocate for disability rights and education through the law, something I am truly passionate about.”
Brianna Crawford
Engineering, Sophomore
Houston, TX

"I LOVE being a PATHS mentor because I get to make a difference in the students’ lives and help them reach their goals. I love seeing them accomplish their goals that they have set. It's amazing to see the progress each student makes throughout the program!"
Texas A&M Undergraduates

Rachel McClure
Psychology, Senior
Colleyville, TX

“I am so excited to be a part of helping students follow their dreams. I am working with students as a DSP adviser and supporting them in their volunteering and field based experiences. The PATHS students have amazed me with their determination, and I can't wait to see all of their growth this year!”
I just wanted to let you know that I am now officially a licensed CNA! In my opinion, it has many of the same attributes as a DSP. You deal with the elderly and you are there to suit their needs.

My advice for those who would want to pursue this is to be very serious about everything. Also, realize that there are times when you have to do unpleasant things like cleaning up after a person who had a bathroom accident. And always, ALWAYS, be respectful and calm.

PATHs has helped me be more independent in career searching and also has helped me understand more the importance of helping others! With my certification from A&M and my certification from the CNA, I can lead a successful and fulfilling life and career!
Howdy,
I like my job.
Gig 'Em,
Darius Young
Submission of Application

Online: paths.tamu.edu

Choose your “track”
DSP – Direct Support Professional
CCP – Child Care Professional

Application Availability
OPEN NOW!
Closes: February 28th, 2017

*Acceptance letters will be mailed April 2017
Open House

Register Online: paths.tamu.edu

Spring: January 28th, 2017
Program Contact Information

Ruth Davenport
Program Manager
rdavenport@tamu.edu

paths.tamu.edu
979 - 845 - 4704